

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 597
By: Guillen
Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In recent years, the recreational and ecological value of Texas lakes has been threatened by harmful invasive aquatic species. In light of the potentially devastating nature of invasive aquatic species in public waters, interested parties have stressed the importance of educating the public on means of preventing exotic harmful aquatic species from penetrating lakes currently unaffected by such species. H.B. 597 seeks to promote awareness of preventive measures through a boater education course or equivalency exam administered by the Parks and Wildlife Department.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

H.B. 597 amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to require a boater education course or equivalency examination, on or before January 1, 2014, to include information on how to prevent the spread of exotic harmful or potentially harmful aquatic plants, fish, and shellfish, including methods approved by the Parks and Wildlife Department for cleaning a boat, a boat's motor, fishing and other equipment, and a boat trailer.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2013.